



PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 2003-IP-010320 U1 USA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Neil Hepburn et al.
Serial No.: 10/767,656
Filed: January 29, 2004
Entitled: SEALED BRANCH WELLBORE
TRANSITION JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO-SB-08, the Applicants hereby call the examiner's attention to the following information of which they are aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed references, other than U.S. patents, are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement.

U.S. Patents:

6,070,671 6,561,279 6,578,630 6,619,400 5,458,209 5,615,740
6,089,320 6,241,021

Published U.S. Application:

2001/0045284

Pending U.S. Applications:

10/103,381, filed March 21, 2002, entitled DOWNHOLE TUBULAR STRING CONNECTIONS

10/103,025, filed March 21, 2002, entitled ISOLATION BYPASS TRANSITION JOINT

Foreign Patent Documents:

GB 2371579 FR 2692316 GB 2304764 GB 2353811

Search Report for United Kingdom Application No.: 0308428.2

Other Publications:

“HOMCO Internal Steel Liner Casing Patch”, Weatherford Fishing and Rental Tool Services, dated 1995

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “LRS-SL™ Self-Locating Lateral Re-entry System”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “LRW-SL™ Self-Locating Lateral Re-entry Whipstock”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “LRS™ Lateral Re-entry System”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “WREAL™ Wireline Re-entry Alignment System”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “TEW™ Tubing Exit Whipstock”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “LRW™ Lateral Re-entry Whipstock”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “TPI™ Through-Tubing Pressure Isolation Sleeve”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “Vector Block”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “RDS™ Re-entry Drilling System”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “MERLIN™ Milled Exit Retrievable Multilateral System”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “4502™/4503™ Metal Mill-Through Systems”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, “RMLS™ Retrievable Multilateral System”, dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "LTBS™ Lateral Tie-Back System", dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "PACE-6™ Pressure-Actuated Casing Exit System", dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "Sperry-Sun Latch Coupling", dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "4501™ Low-Side Perforation System", dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "MSCS® Multi-String Completion System", dated 2000

Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "ITBS™ Isolated Tie-Back System", dated 2000

Sperry-Sun "Multilateral Products, Services, and Solutions", dated 2000

Multilateral Technology "MACH-3™ Mechanical Anchored Casing Hanger Level 3 Multilateral System, dated 2003

Easy Well Solutions "Swell Packer Datasheet", dated 2003

IADC/SPE 74496, "A New TAML Level 3 Multilateral System Improves Capabilities and Operational Efficiencies", dated 2002

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Written notification that the listed documents have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.

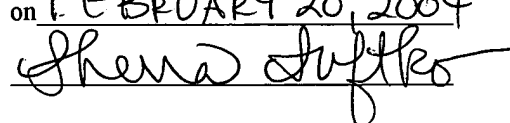


Marlin R. Smith
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,310

Dated: *Feb. 18, 2004*

660 North Central Expressway
Suite 230
Plano, Texas 75074
(972) 516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on FEBRUARY 20, 2004


+

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/767,656
Filing Date	January 29, 2004
First Named Inventor	NEAL G. SKINNER
Group Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	2003-IP-010320 U1 USA

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 4

Attorney Docket Number	2003-IP-010320 U1 USA
------------------------	-----------------------

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08B (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<p>Substitute for form 1449B/PTO</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				Complete if Known	
<div>Sheet</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 10px;">2</div> <div>of</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 10px;">4</div>		Application Number			
		Filing Date			
		First Named Inventor			
		Group Art Unit			
		Examiner Name			
		Attorney Docket Number			

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials ²	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		U.S. Application Serial No. 10/103,381 filed March 21, 2002	
		U.S. Application Serial No. 10/103025 filed March 21, 2002	
		Search Report for U.K. Application No.: 0308428.2	
		"HOMCO Internal Steel Liner Casing Patch", Weatherford Fishing and Rental Tool Services, dated 1995	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "LRS-SL™ Self-Locating Lateral Re-entry System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "LRW-SL™ Self-Locating Lateral Re-entry Whipstock", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "LRS™ Lateral Re-entry System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "WREAL™ Wireline Re-entry Alignment System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "TEW™ Tubing Exit Whipstock", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "LRW™ Lateral Re-entry Whipstock", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "TPI™ Through-Tubing Pressure Isolation Sleeve", dated 2000	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08B (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 45%;"><p>Substitute for form 1449B/PTO</p><h2 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h2><p style="text-align: center;"><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p></div><div style="width: 50%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Complete if Known</p><table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="width: 60%;">Application Number</td><td>10/767,656</td></tr><tr><td>Filing Date</td><td>January 29, 2004</td></tr><tr><td>First Named Inventor</td><td>Neil Hepburn</td></tr><tr><td>Group Art Unit</td><td>Unassigned</td></tr><tr><td>Examiner Name</td><td>Unassigned</td></tr><tr><td>Attorney Docket Number</td><td>2003-IP-010320 U1 USA</td></tr></table></div></div>				Application Number	10/767,656	Filing Date	January 29, 2004	First Named Inventor	Neil Hepburn	Group Art Unit	Unassigned	Examiner Name	Unassigned	Attorney Docket Number	2003-IP-010320 U1 USA
Application Number	10/767,656														
Filing Date	January 29, 2004														
First Named Inventor	Neil Hepburn														
Group Art Unit	Unassigned														
Examiner Name	Unassigned														
Attorney Docket Number	2003-IP-010320 U1 USA														
Sheet	3	of	4												

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "Vector Block", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "RDS™ Re-entry Drilling System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "MERLIN™ Milled Exit Retrievable Multilateral System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "4502/4503™ Metal Mill-Through Systems", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "RMLS™ Retrievable Multilateral System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "LTBS™ Lateral Tie-Back System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "PACE-6™ Pressure-Acutated Casing Exit System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "Sperry-Sun Latch Coupling", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "4501™ Low-Side Perforation System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "MSCS® Multi-String Completion System", dated 2000	
		Sperry-Sun Multilateral Services Profile, "ITBS™ Isolated Tie-Back System", dated 2000	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

PTO/SB/08B (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/767,656
		Filing Date	January 29, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Neil Hepburn
		Group Art Unit	Unassigned
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
		Attorney Docket Number	2003-IP-010320 U1 USA
Sheet	4	of	4

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials¹	Cite No.¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T²
		Sperry-Sun "Multilateral Products, Services, and Solutions", dated 2000	
		Multilateral Technology "MACH-3™ Mechanical Anchored Casing Hanger Level 3 Multilateral System", dated 2003	
		Easy Well Solutions, "Swell Packer Datasheet", dated 2003	
		IADC/SPE 74496, "A New TAML Level 3 Multilateral System Improves Capabilities and Operational Efficiencies", dated 2002	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-------------------------------	--	----------------------------	--

¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.